

Monday, April 6, 2009

Deb Ranum, Chairperson, Donald Rieger and Dennis Afrank, Members and Brenda Wood, Clerk and Recorder met for the regular April session.

Bob Weidmer, Road Foreman met to present his weekly road report. Bob submitted his report for last week as he was in attendance of the LTAP meeting in Great Falls. Bob reported there was a lot of snow down south last week and Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman-Acting Road Foreman had all of the equipment available opening roads and clearing snow. This week Bob stated they are planning to haul gravel on the Anticline and when the weather warms they will try to replace the cargate on the South Ismay Road. Bob stated they also have a number of cargates in the County that need to be cleaned, which they will get to when the snow has melted. Bob spoke to the Commission of the training he attended. Bob stated he learned if the State came and took gravel out of a County pit, the County will be liable, so the County should make sure the State does not enter the County's permitted pits. Bob stated he also learned that the Counties and State are exempt from DOT cards and CDL's, until you have an accident. If the individual has an accident and can not provide either of the items named previously, they will be in trouble. In other words, our drivers are all better off having the CDL and DOT physical cards. Bob stated also, if a County truck is overweight, the County is not responsible to pay the fine; the driver is responsible for the fine. Bob stated he learned much more that he would visit with the Commission about at a later date. Bob also thanked the Commission for allowing him to attend this meeting as he learned so much.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman/Acting Road Foreman submitted his road report for last week. Alba stated on Monday the following roads and areas were opened and cleared of snow: District 1-North Cap Rock, East of Baker, Bus Route North of Baker; District 2-Little Beaver towards South and East Roads; District 3-South Bus Route and North Bus Route. Tuesday-District 1-Clean North area, Big Hill to the County Line, Clean up the East Area; District 2-Webster and South, Webster West-North and South of Road; District 3-Clean North and West areas of District 3, Clean South and East areas and helped in District 2 on the Willard East Road. Wednesday-Continue clean up from previous day. Thursday-District 2-Clear drifted areas, clean pit area; District 3-Clear drifted areas. Alba explained there were various issues at some farmsteads, but it all worked out. Clean up of equipment, miscellaneous jobs/snow hauls. Oshkosh broke down-right, front ball socket housing; trying to get parts and can not be used at all. Alba discussed the FWD-snowplow truck is a 1972 and has mechanical issues also. It can be used if there is no ice but Alba does not know if we can get parts for it. Alba stated they blew a head gasket on the skidsteer; it is on its way to Williston today and will be fixed under warranty. Alba talked to T & E and it sounded like they had been having issues with this on other skidsteer's. Commissioner Ranum discussed a cattle guard that needs to be cleaned and repaired. Commissioner Rieger stated Lewis and Clark County was very impressed with our facility and stated our employees were very kind and knowledgeable. The group discussed the possible new building for the park/shop. The group will meet later in the week to discuss the building.

CLOSED HIPPA

Rod Johnson and Mark Jacobsen, Airport Board and Roger Meggers, Airport Manager met to discuss the runway extension at the Airport. Rod reported the Land Acquisition meeting went quite well; the two land owners involved were in attendance. Rod stated the land will have to be appraised by an aeronautical appraiser. Rod stated they were here today to discuss the possibility of a land swap. The Commission stated they felt comfortable with the propositions made regarding the land and would be interested in proceeding. The Commission asked if the reason for the extension was to allow larger jets to be accommodated by our airport. The group stated yes this is one of the reasons. Commissioner Ranum asked the group what the status was with the military fly pattern issue. Roger stated that was still in limbo for now. Rod stated they also need to know if the Commission will approve them to move forward with the appraisal listed on the acquisition. The Commission approved moving forward with the appraisals also.

John Prince phoned in to ask how much it would cost to rent the County property West of Baker to set up a hot mix plant. The Commission stated the cost would be \$2,500.00, same as before.

Commissioner Ranum stated Mike Weeden of MK Weeden Construction was wondering if he could obtain 100,000 gallons of water per day for 50 days from the Baker Lake. The Commission agreed they would not be able to allow anyone to obtain water from the Baker Lake. Commissioner Ranum phoned Mike back and told him he may be able to call Tri-State Water Service or a local farmer/rancher.

Noon Recess

The Commission reconvened with all present at 1:00 PM.

Lisa Mitchell, Ambulance Director met to update the Commission on the Ambulance Department. Lisa stated they are down to four drivers/attendants. They have started a First Responder's class; they started with 12 individuals and now have 5 individuals left. Lisa explained some will stop at the First Responder's and some want to go on to the EMT portion of the training. The Commission asked if the Ambulance members had heard rumors about the Ambulance garage being moved. Lisa stated yes they had heard some rumbles. The Commission stated nothing was set in stone as of this time. Lisa stated it would make a longer response time for some of the individuals and they do not feel the need for a new Ambulance garage but would not have a major problem if it was moved. The Commission stated Lisa should get a consensus from the rest of the members regarding this and let them know how everyone feels. Commissioner Rieger asked how the new ambulance was working. Lisa stated sometimes it will start and sometimes it will not. They have been trying different things to get the issues resolved. The Commission wondered if there was some place they could take the Ambulance to have it looked at. Lisa stated they have had really good luck with Miles City Ford and they are also the dealers for those type Ambulances. Lisa stated they were wondering about getting a two wheel drive for transfers only as they feel this would be more comfortable for the patient; they would trade in the van. Commissioner Rieger stated he spoke to a Representative with ENCORE and he wondered if we needed another new Ambulance. Commissioner Rieger stated he would ask and suggest the Ambulance Association get a quote for what they would like. Lisa will bring this up to the members also. The group discussed what Lisa felt would work to get people more interested in becoming an EMT. Lisa stated that some Associations have gotten a VISTA for their association and they go out and look for ways to promote the Association, etc and there is a grant that can be obtained to get a VISTA. Lisa stated the Commission could also hire a full time director to do the same thing; that would be their job all day, every day is to work on things that will make their Ambulance Service more proficient, etc.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Randy Ketterling, Chief of Police for the City of Baker and Tim Barkley, Fallon County Sheriff met to discuss their thoughts regarding the consolidation of the two law enforcement agencies. Commissioner Ranum is concerned if there is a short fall from the City would Tim have to ask the County for the funding. Tim stated yes, I need to make sure my Department has everything necessary to perform their duties. Commissioner Afrank asked if the City does not come through with the funding then what would we do. Tim and Randy both responded you would then break the contract. Commissioner Afrank stated he can see some major good things and some bad things that would come from the consolidation. The group discussed the amount of employees they felt would be necessary to conduct business. Tim felt there would need to be at least seven (7) employees to maintain the Department sufficiently. Randy and Tim presented some scheduling they had come up with. Randy and Tim will come in on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 4:00 PM to discuss this matter with the Baker City Council and Mayor Hornung present. Commissioner Afrank felt he would feel more at ease if the City would provide more money than they had previously stated, toward the consolidation of the two agencies.

The Carter County Commissioner's phoned the Commissioner's regarding the blade they would like to purchase directly from Fallon County. Commissioner Rieger stated he had informed T & E that Carter County would have to purchase the blade directly from T & E. The reason being Fallon County had already completed their bids and the blades were going to be traded in on the new blades and this would lack clarity for Fallon County. The Carter County Commission stated they understood Fallon County's position on this matter.

Vera Abrams, Safety Supervisor met to give her quarterly report. Vera reported 1 first aid; 1 vehicle/property damage accident; 7 non-recordable accidents in which 5 people slipped on the icy road, street or sidewalk, 1 stepped on uneven ground and fell and 1 recordable accident. Attendance-Safety team average-61%; monthly safety meeting attendance average-64%; days driven since last vehicle incident-125 days; days worked since last recordable incident-40 days; days worked since last LTA-1 day (as of March 31-end of quarter). In-Service/Training topics presented-January-MRSA: Infectious Disease and Control-presented by Judy McWilliams; February-Stress-presented by Vera Abrams; March-Lockout/Tag out and Policy Updates-presented by Vera Abrams/Debbie Wyrick. OSHA training courses for 2009-OSHA trenching and excavation requirements (8 hours): completed 3/25/2009; Asbestos and lead abatement requirements in Montana-5/20/2009; OSHA Blood-borne Pathogens and Hazard Communication-5/21/2009. The Commission feels the following should attend: Landfill, Road, Law Enforcement, Ambulance, Parks and Recreation Departments and Fairgrounds. Vera stated she had set the First Aid/CPR Training for March 12th and 13th. There will be mandatory forklift training 5/15/2009 for the Road Crew only. Vera had one new employee that completed interim training. Vera discussed the MACo meeting with Amelia McEwen. Seasonal Employee hard hats and safety glasses will be ordered by April 15th and seasonal mandatory training will have their first session June 3, 2009. Vera discussed the new pre trip inspection form she had made for the county car pool. This will only need to be filled out for the out of town trips.

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

CLOSED-PERSONNEL

Commissioner Ranum signed the Outlay report #1 for the Airport Runway Extension on behalf of the Commission. All copies are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission reviewed and approved March Payroll and Withholdings in the amount of \$403,307.80 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Recess

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Spencer Huether, Road Technician met to discuss the road abandonment's that need to be completed due to the liability they add to the County. The decision was made to schedule the hearing for May 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Fallon County Courtroom.

Bekki Rambur, Community Service Director had been asked by someone from Plevna if she could find out if they could borrow the County's picnic tables for their 100 year celebration. Bekki stated they would pick them up July 3rd and be brought back on July 6th. The Commission stated whatever the County has they will make available for Plevna's 100 year anniversary. The Commission feel they will not take the picnic tables from the Gazebo area incase there are people that wish to have a picnic at the lake that weekend. Commissioner Afrank questioned Fallon County Days. Commissioner Rieger and Ranum stated they are having Fallon County Days on a different weekend according to the Chamber of Commerce meeting they last attended. Commissioner Ranum suggested they use some of the old tables and chairs from the Fairgrounds. Barb Lechler was contacted by the Clerk and Recorder and stated there would be approximately 12 old tables and some old chairs they keep in the old wooden exhibit hall that could be used for their celebration.

Jeff Gruiezenga, Coneer Engineering met to update the Commission on the boiler project and other items of business. Jeff stated the boiler project seems to be going well and the boilers seemed to be working well this winter. Jeff also discussed they still need to change the caps on the roof of the Courthouse and the Hospital; they have three fittings at each place that need to be insulated; patch and repair the ground at the Hospital, have the street patched and bill the street repair to Star Service and then the project will be complete. Jeff is hoping the project will be completed by April, no later than June.

Library Air Handler-Jeff stated the ventilation will be down while they are repairing this so they will need to do this while it is cooler. Digital thermostats- The courthouse has thirty (30) that need to be completed. Jeff stated they could do a few replacements now in the problem areas and phase it in over a four year period, which would be eight (8) this year and each year there after until complete or complete the entire job this year. The Commission felt they would like to complete this in phases. They could combine this project with the central air handling equipment job.

Weatherization report from S & L was discussed. Jeff stated they discussed the boilers are in need of replacement at PVC1. Jeff stated they could go from the three old cast iron boilers to two energy efficient boilers and this will drop the gas bills; similar to the boilers in the new FMC addition.

The light fixtures need to be improved in the common area.

They are having issues controlling the cooling and heating. Jeff suggests the Commission bid these projects all at once so they can get a better price. The Commission agreed to proceed with the named repairs.

Jeff stated he will check with MTI on the integrity of the ventilation regarding the main courthouse.

Tim Barkley, Sheriff was called to join the discussion. Tim stated the heating is still not sufficient in his Department and the jail area. Tim stated there is a definite improvement from what it was before, but toward the afternoon it gets warm in the offices. Tim stated he feels the air flow is better, but there is still not good air flow in the jail. Tim feels the air exchange is not good and stated there is an exhaust fan that has been froze for quite some time and MTI and the people before them were told about it but it still has not been repaired. Jeff stated he will get the plans from MTI and see if we can change some things. Jeff will get in touch with MTI regarding some concerns and get back to the Commission.

Noon Recess

CLOSED-LEGAL

CLOSED-LEGAL

CLOSED-HIPAA

The group discussed snow days; no resolution other than the employee would possibly need to take vacation to stay home or go home early, unless there would be a County-wide Snow Day issued by the Sheriff or someone of that nature.

Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman and Bob Wiedmer, Road Foreman went to Sidney, MT to look at the way they have set up their new blades and what type radio and how they placed the radio in their new blades. Alba stated we will have to go to a smaller radio for the new blades after looking at the blades in Sidney. The new radios will be digital; Commissioner Rieger stated they should talk to Chuck Lee, DES/911 Coordinator about funding for the radios; he felt Chuck was trying to get a grant for the radios.

Alba stated he visited with the Secretary of the Road Department in Glendive about her MSDS program. She informed Alba that if you have fuel haulers that hold more than 120 gallons of fuel they will need to be placarded. Alba stated he thinks we need to put fuel tanks in the back of the pickups. Commissioner Afrank asked how many gallons of fuel the blades hold. Alba stated they do not carry more than 100 gallons of fuel and burn about 45 gallons of fuel per day. Alba stated he was glad they got to go and visit their County shop because he found some things that they did that he would like to do.

The Commission completed reviewing and approving March, 2009 claims in the amount of \$269,774.80 and they are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

John Beach, Councilman-City of Baker; Clayton Hornung, Mayor-City of Baker and Tim Barkley, Sheriff-Fallon County received a memo from Tim via Randy Ketterling, Chief of Police for the City of Baker stating it was Tim's impression the County was not in favor of the consolidation. Clayton was wondering why the Commission was not interested in listening to what they had found. Clayton explained he had appointed a committee to visit with Tim; Clayton drew up some information on what the committee had come up with from the meeting, as well as the schedule they came up with. Clayton reviewed the information gathered by the committee and there was much discussion from the group on the pros and cons of consolidating the two departments. Commissioner Rieger stated we will give it some thought in the next couple days and let you know what we come up with. The group discussed the items they felt they would need answered before the next meeting on April 20th.

Recess

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Tim Barkley, Sheriff met regarding yesterday's meeting with the City of Baker Mayor and Councilman. Commissioner Ranum stated she is concerned about the budget and she likes things the way they are now. Tim stated his department is happy with the way things are being run now. Commissioner Afrank stated he feels things are still too uncertain and is not in favor of it right now. Commissioner Rieger is not in favor of this at this time and feels we need to draft a letter to the City before the Commission leaves this week. Tim agrees they could state in the letter that it could be revisited after the officers are trained, etc.

Mike Carlson and Bob Shelgren, New Harvest Energy met to discuss wind energy. Mike stated they stopped at the Fallon County Tower and they can put an anemometer at the 150' level as there are a lot of items on that tower at the 200' level. Mike stated after further reevaluating the tower set up fees, Mike feels he could get the cost of the tower and set up so it would be less costly. Mike also discussed something else they are trying and that is solar powered energy. Commissioner Afrank feels they should give this a try also. The Commission granted permission to order and place the equipment. The group discussed where they would place the tower from the Landfill. The group viewed a County map and discussed various properties owned by Fallon County, in which to place towers.

Nicole Brown stated she received a \$3,000.00 grant so she can attend training for her position as the Justice of Peace. The grant will not cover all of the costs but will have money in her budget to cover the remainder of the costs. The training takes place in Reno, NV in June, 2009. Nicole stated they are also having a search and seizure training in Oxford, Mississippi that she would like to attend and this training is almost fully funded. Nicole stated she took her certification test and did outstanding. The Commission congratulated Nicole. Nicole stated she likes and wants to be the best at everything she does. Nicole would like to ask for more hours, on the same days with hours from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. The Commission stated Nicole needs to put that in her budget for 2010.

Noon Recess

Mike Kirschten, Shooting Range Board stated they received the NRA Grant in the amount of \$5,000 to purchase targets for the Cowboy Action portion of the Shooting Range. Mike stated the grant was written by Nico Cantalupo, County Agent. They would like to build a 12 x 20 storage building. Mike stated he thought it would cost \$1,400.00 for concrete and \$3,800.00 for the building itself. Mike stated this would be the match for the NRA grant and there would be enough money in his budget to cover that cost. Mike stated the FWP grant is due May 1st and they plan to use this funding to place a canopy over the rifle firing line. This grant will also be written by Nico Cantalupo. Mike stated they wanted to get the storage building from this year's budget incase the FWP would not fund the canopy. They could then budget for the canopy from next year's budget. Commissioner Rieger asked if this was just a roof with no sides.

Mike stated, for now but they may try to add some wind block to it later. Commissioner Rieger asked how long the canopy would be. Mike stated it would be 110'. Mike further stated Jim Kono has the rest of the stands completed for the shooting range benches. Commissioner Afrank made the motion to pass the application resolution for the FWP Grant regarding the Shooting Range Development. Commissioner Rieger seconded the motion. Commissioner Ranum called for all those in favor to signify by stating aye. 3 Aye. Commissioner Ranum called for all those opposed to signify by stating opposed. 0 Opposed. Motion carried. Resolution 4-8-2009 is as filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Jason Rittal, Executive Director for Eastern Plains Economic Development met to update the Commission on various projects. Jason stated John Rogers of the Economic Development Administration will do an investment summary as a part of his review on the grant Jason wrote for the NBWS District project, prior to sending it off to EDA in Denver. Jason stated if we do not use any TSEP money for administration, they do not require review of procurement. Jason explained what TSEP said about procurement and feels we should be able to avoid procurement requirements by tagging on to the County funding. Jason would rather use the county share of the funding, for Eastern Plains Economic Development, if administration fees are the route we take. The preference is to let the District pay in what they would have been paying in debt over a period of time with the funds being used for future development of the NBWS District and for funding of the Eastern Plains EDC. The County would enter into an agreement with the District annually to pay the funds back to the County for capital improvement projects and for the Economic Development District, which is the amount they had anticipated to be paying on the USDA loan, which will no longer be necessary if EDA funds the full amount requested. A piece of the payback would go back to the 5 county economic development, at a specific amount per year and that will only be if the EDA grant comes through. Jason got hold of someone regarding the Low Income Housing and found out the same things the Commission had found out from the letter they had received from the USDA.

Lynda Herbst, Custodian was brought in to discuss her contract which is up for renewal.

Commissioner Ranum signed the Sponsor Certification Forms for the Airport Runway Extension on behalf of the Commission. All copies are filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Recess

Thursday, April 9, 2009

David Espeland, CEO-Fallon Medical Complex met to present the monthly report. Financials-David discussed the financials with the Commission. Contract Nursing-David stated they have cut the contracted nursing down.--Nursing Home Remodeling-The Nursing Home remodeling project is going well.—Elevator (Nursing Home)-The elevator was licensed and received its occupancy; it was used one day and it broke down with two house keepers in it. The company is working on it now; the phone did not work for them either.--Fuel Tank Issue-David stated they feel the vent line for the tank must have had a break in it which causes it to back drain water in the fuel tank. Parking Lot and Sidewalks-David stated they are going to have to redo the parking lot and some of the sidewalks.--Elevator (Parkview II)-is leaking fluid also, there is a scratch on the surface so Hardy or someone must have caused this. David feels they may have to replace the entire seal.—Elevator (Parkview I)-The seal in that elevator is not holding either and that one was just replaced--Weatherization Report and other PPCI and PVCII issues-David stated the report stated all doors need to be replaced; need vents in the roof and they generally felt the windows were okay. David never received the information from Mike Stevenson. David did discuss the handicap door opener between the Nursing Home and the Cafeteria with Mike. Mike stated they can not do anything about that because it is a fire wall. David stated the issue with the lighting will be addressed. Addressing the parking spaces, regarding the size; this will also be addressed when they repair the other parking lot. The clothes racks have been ordered. David stated they may have the last apartment rented; this will make them 100% occupancy in PVC1 and PVCII. David

stated the insurance certificates were received from the Parkview II residents.--Garages for Parkview I and II residents; decision made to research it again.--Wii machine-David stated everyone seems to really enjoy it.--Ambulance Garage-Commissioners may decide to move the ambulance garage to the empty lot once occupied by Public Health.--Mill Levy Meeting-David stated they will hold it on April 22nd at the Senior Center at 7:30 PM.

Noon Recess

Maria Braun, FSA Director met to discuss the possibility of filing a Disaster Declaration, due to the amount of snow received. Maria will get the letter ready for the Commission to review, sign and mail to the Governor.

Scott Rabbitt, Park Supervisor; Alba Higgins, Shop Foreman; Bob Weidmer, Road Foreman and Richard Griffith, G & R Custom Metals met to discuss the shop/park building. Richard stated they can spec what they want for a building and go out to bid for a pre-engineered building. Commissioner Afrank asked if it is possible to pour the drive path thicker than the sides to save money. Richard stated it is possible to pour like that and it would save money. After some discussion the decision was made to move the building by the race track instead of adding on to the existing shop. The group agreed to proceed with specifications for the building.

The Commission wrote a letter to Mayor Clayton Hornung and City Council Members informing them the Commission is not interested in pursuing contracting or consolidation of the County and City Law Enforcement at this time. That letter is filed in the Clerk and Recorder's office.

The Commission signed the Agreement for the Compensation of City/County Recreation Employees and will take the agreement to the City of Baker for approval at their next Council meeting.

Commissioner Ranum approved Encroachment Permit #504 for Fidelity Exploration and Production Company to construct an approach off the Pennel Road to access proposed well #4028 in Section 35-8-59. The required fee of \$150.00 was collected.

ROAD EASEMENTS SIGNED:

Jennifer S. Bryan-Section 26-9-58-Anticline Road
Jane E. Caldwell-Section 10-9-58-Anticline Road
Elizabeth Chastain-Section 26-9-58-Anticline Road

The Commission signed the 2009/2010 designation form allowing a service provider to receive earmarked alcohol tax monies for the provision of Chemical Dependency Treatment and Prevention Services in accordance of MCA 53-24-206.

The Airport received a \$6,000.00 grant from the Montana Department of Transportation. Those funds were deposited in the Airport Fund.

REPORTS:

The Commission received a report from Kit Anderson, Planner regarding the Floodplain Conference she attended in Great Falls.

The Commission reviewed and approved the Fair Board report for February, 2009.

The Commission reviewed and approved the Plevna Rural Fire District report and warrants were approved in the amount of \$9,214.86.

The Commission reviewed and approved the Baker Rural Fire District report and warrants were approved in the amount of \$90,644.39.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Commission received notification from the FAA in Helena stating they approved the engineering agreement for the Airport Improvement Program at the Baker Municipal Airport regarding the runway extension.

REVENUES:

Baker Air Service for rental of the New Hanger at the Baker Airport for the 3rd quarter in the amount of \$42.75.

Encore-Oil and Gas Royalties for January and February in the amount of \$1,858.41.

Continental Resources, Inc.-Oil and Gas Royalties for January in the amount of \$3,591.41.

ConocoPhillips Company-Oil and Gas Royalties for January in the amount of \$2,498.11.

Sands Oil Company-Oil and Gas Royalties for February in the amount of \$322.25.

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from March 23, 2009.

The Commission has been steadily watching the legislative sessions and reviewing many of the bills they deem pertinent to Fallon County, City of Baker, Schools and the State of Montana.

Adjourned.
s/Deb Ranum, Chairman

ATTEST:
s/Brenda J. Wood, Clerk and Recorder